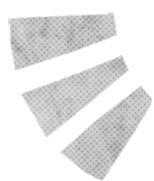




## Mind the GAP International Liberal Arts Competiton

*For ages 11–16 · Chapter-based global competition · Writing or Video*

Mind the GAP is an international, chapter-based liberal arts competition that amplifies young voices—especially from underserved communities. Create a written piece or a short film/video about identity, equity, culture, work, or community. Submit one progress documentation to show how you made it. Entrée are accepted through local Chapters only.



### ***2026 Global Competition Timeline***

*Applications Open: Now*

**Deadline:** March 1 (11:59 PM — your local time)

**Chapter Verification:** Immediately after Deadline

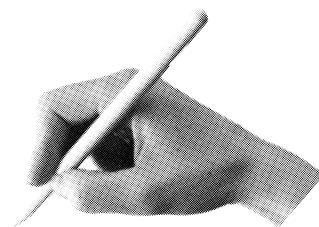
**Global Review & Showcase:** Spring (date posted in your portal)

All entries must be submitted through a registered Chapter in your country/region.

### ***Eligibility (Who can apply?)***



- To be eligible, you must be able to answer “Yes” to these statements:
- I am 11–15 years old as of March 1 this cycle.
- I will submit through a local Chapter in my region/country.
  - ex: Even if you live in Jeonju, you can submit through any Korean chapter (ex: Korea–Seoul, Korea–Jeju, etc. ) since there are no chapters in Jeonju.
  - No direct submissions to HQ; all entries must go through a Chapter. If you cannot find one, start a Chapter or request a temporary liaison Chapter via our form.
- I will submit one final work (either Writing or Video) and one progress documentation (photos or short making-of clip).
- I will complete the Demographics Form (disability, orphanage status, grade level, etc.).
- Parent/guardian consent is provided (required for all minors).



### ***Accepted Formats (choose one)***

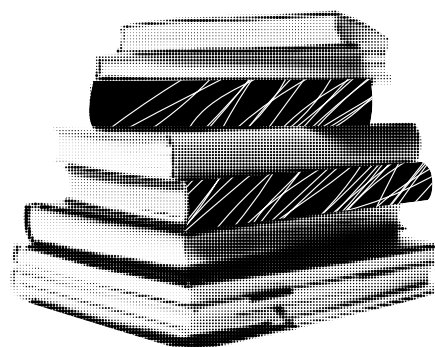
#### **1) Writing**

- Form: personal essay, profile/reportage, op-ed, narrative non-fiction, poetry sequence (up to 5 poems counted as one entry), etc.
- Length: 800–1,500 words (poetry: up to 5 pages).
- Language: English or local language. If not English, include a 100–150-word English abstract.
- File: PDF or DOCX. Filename: Chapter-Country\_Lastname\_Firstname\_Title.pdf.

#### **2) Video**

- Type: short documentary, personal essay film, interview piece, creative nonfiction, musical performance, art, etc.
- Length: 2–5 minutes (max 5:00).
- Specs: 720p+ (1080p preferred), MP4/MOV, captions/subtitles required if not English.
- Music/footage: only original or properly licensed.
- File: upload via Chapter portal (or link) + caption file if applicable.

### ***Mandatory Progress Documentation (1 item)***



Every applicant must submit one of the following to show process and growth:

- Behind-the-scenes video (30–90 seconds), or
- 3–6 making photos with 1–2 sentence captions each.
- Your progress doc should show how you researched, drafted, filmed, interviewed, or revised—not perfection. Include date/location and a brief note on your role. Chapter leaders verify authenticity.



## Themes & Prompts (you may mix themes)

**Identity & Voice:** culture, migration, language, food & body image, belonging, human stories - personal essay.  
The category in identity and voice will be an easy place to start since it can be about the experiences of the participant. Most simply it could be describing a favorite food or a special memory to more deeply about their connection with their family or a significant event that happened in their life that they want to share. To guide participants to submit to this category, it would be helpful to help brainstorm different personal stories they could write/draw/paint about in their own ways.

**Community & Equity:** anti-racism, gender equality, education access, disability inclusion.  
This category encompasses opinions about issues around the world. This would be a more intermediate level of writing or artistic expression since it would require some knowledge about universal issues. Nonetheless for participants who have experienced or have strong opinions about these topics, it would be a great option they could write about. For example, if the participants are part of a community where gender equality is not prioritized, this could be a topic they want to speak about. As leaders, it would be helpful if you are able to introduce the idea of this “genre” of writing so that the participants can also expand their perspectives and understand the opportunity to speak about this. During the process of writing, it would be helpful to share some of your knowledge since this is a harder task.

**Environment & Place:** local ecologies, markets, rivers, plastic use, climate & everyday life.  
This category is a description of a location or place, physical or fictional. If the submission piece were to connect environment to a personal story (a combination of theme #1 and theme #3), it would relate a specific place to a memory, lesson, experience, etc. On the other hand, it could objectively describe the culture of the participants (this would also be theme #1 and theme #3 since it is a description of culture and location). To help this, leaders would use the element of location during the idea brainstorm process.

**Wellbeing & Resilience:** mental health, recovery journeys, support systems, stigma.

**Fictional:** novels, short stories, character introductions... This category includes any fictional creations. It could be novels or short stories -- even character introductions. Since writing a fictional story is so hard and extensive, for people first learning how to write, simply character introductions would be acceptable as submissions considering that they are in depth and unique, providing a clue about a possible storyline.



## Find Your Chapter

Search the chapter directory and choose the one closest to your region/country. If none exists, apply to start a Chapter or request a liaison Chapter.

1. Create an Account & Select Your Format (Writing or Video).
  2. Complete the Application Form
    - a. Contact info (applicant + guardian)
    - b. Demographics (required): disability, orphanage status, grade level, location, language(s)
    - c. Consent & media release (guardian signature)
  3. Upload Your Work (final piece) + Progress Documentation (1 item).
  4. Submit by March 1 (11:59 PM local time) through the application form linked in the website. The branch leader will submit this form for you.
  5. Chapter Verification (age/eligibility/process check) → Global Jury review → Results posted in your portal.
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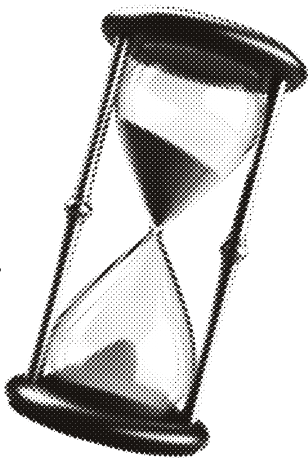
Fees: There is no application fee. Chapters may host optional workshops at no cost.

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## Judging & Rubric

Entries are reviewed first by Chapter juries, then by the Global Jury of educators, journalists, artists, and community leaders.

- Rubric (100 points total)**
- Voice & Clarity (20): authenticity, coherence, and audience awareness.
  - Insight & Originality (25): fresh perspective; depth of thinking; ethical sensitivity.
  - Evidence & Craft (20): reporting or research effort; structure; editing; language/film craft.
  - Empathy & Impact (20): human connection; community relevance; dignity in portrayal.
  - Process & Growth (15): documented effort; iteration; reflection shown in progress doc.
  - We evaluate content over equipment. Smartphone footage and local-language storytelling are welcome.



## Recognition (Why Apply?) / Prizes

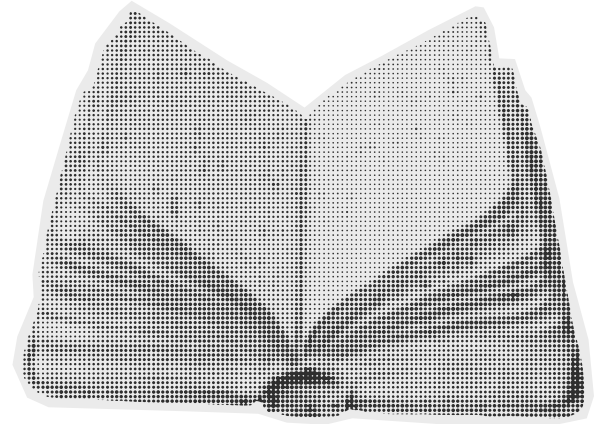
- International Honorees & Chapter Honorees (digital certificate + website gallery feature)
- Global Showcase: selected works featured on our site & official YouTube/Vimeo channel
- Mentor Dialogues: online feedback sessions with writers/filmmakers/journalists
- Alumni Network: join the Mind the GAP youth community to collaborate across cities/countries
- Donations from Sponsors: receiving donations from sponsors/communities to provide for participants
- (Cash prizes are not offered; this program prioritizes access, visibility, and mentorship.)



## Chapters: What, Why, How

What is a chapter?

- A school, NGO, library, youth center, or informal educator hub that:
- Registers local applicants;
- Hosts one orientation (online/offline);
- Verifies age/eligibility and progress documentation;
- Submits shortlisted entries to the Global Jury.



Become a Chapter

- Complete the Chapter Application (org/contact, safeguarding policy, translation capacity).
- Agree to zero-fee participation, privacy standards, and inclusive outreach (actively recruit under-served youth).
- Receive a Chapter Code and access to the dashboard, toolkit, and templates.

Don't see a Chapter near you?

- Apply to start a Micro-Chapter (min. 5 entrants) or request a liaison Chapter in your country.

## Accessibility, Ethics & Privacy

- Safeguarding: guardians' consent required; sensitive stories handled with care; no doxxing.
- Demographics: collected to track inclusion and improve access, not used to advantage/disadvantage in judging.
- Translations: we accept English, Korean; other languages welcome with English abstract/subtitles.
- Copyright: use only content you own or have permission to use.
- Data Privacy: we store minimal data; anonymize public displays; you may request removal at any time.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I'm 10 or 16. Can I apply?

A. This cycle is strictly 11–15. Please check future cycles for updated ranges.

Q. I live far from a Chapter (e.g., 전주). What do I do?

A. Apply through any Korea Chapter (Seoul/Jeju/etc.). Chapters accept remote submissions within their country.

Q. Can I submit both writing and video?

A. One final work per applicant each cycle (choose Writing or Video).

Q. Can I collaborate?

A. This cycle is individual submission only. You may acknowledge collaborators in your credits/notes.

Q. Will my work be public?

A. Only selected works will be published after guardian consent. You can opt-out of public display while remaining eligible.

Q. Do I need professional equipment?

A. No. Phone camera + clear audio + strong storytelling is enough.



## Quick Checklist (before you submit)

- ✓ Age 11–15
- ✓ Registered through a Chapter
- ✓ Final work (Writing or Video)
- ✓ Progress documentation (1 item)
- ✓ Demographics & guardian consent complete

Submit by March 1, 11:59 PM (local)

